

sponsors its annual Angels in Adoption recognition gala. This event honors individuals across the Nation who are making a difference in the lives of young people in need of foster and forever homes.

As adoptive parents ourselves, the dedication and commitment to adoption and foster care by CCAI and every Angels in Adoption honoree this year are extremely near and dear to the hearts of my wife Kris and me.

I want to recognize the Angels in Adoption couple I nominated and who are being honored this year. I have known Jon and Carol Mielke of Bismarck, ND, for many years. Yet I am not sure our home community has any idea of all they have done to foster such vulnerable young children for nearly 20 years.

Jon and Carol became foster parents in early 2003, when their daughter was in college and their son a senior in high school. They made the decision to foster infants, they said, because they had “room in their home and room in their hearts.”

To date, they have taken into their home some 45 infants. Some were with them for only a couple of days. Others stayed nearly 3 years.

Always keeping in mind the main goal of foster care is family reunification, they have made an effort to remain in contact with the biological families of these children. Their first foster child was a newborn who had been abandoned at the bus station. They cared for her for 2-and-a-half months. This girl, who recently graduated from high school, is one of the children with whom Jon and Carol have stayed in touch. Another set of twins, now teenagers, visited them for a week earlier this year.

Jon was a longtime administrative manager for a State agency, and Carol's profession was accounting. He has since retired, and she later became a licensed practical nurse, keeping flexible work hours to be available for the children when they come into their home.

Because of Jon's background in legislation and lobbying, he has provided testimony on foster care issues before the legislature. This has helped bring positive statutory changes to some State laws.

Jon and Carol have been active in the regional foster care association, with Jon serving as president one year. They also mentor new foster parents and have appeared in media campaigns promoting foster care. In 2006, they were named North Dakota's Foster Parents of the Year.

The lifelong impact of the love and care they have given to each and every baby coming into their home will never be accurately measured. And, after nearly two decades, they continue to remain dedicated to foster care because of their unwavering belief they can make a difference in the life of a child.

I join all North Dakotans and the entire Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute in congratulating and

honoring Jon and Carol Mielke. We thank you for your years of dedication and the work you continue to do fostering infants in your home. You are exceptionally deserving of recognition as Angels in Adoption.●

TRIBUTE TO JUSTIN MITCHELL

● Mr. PAUL. Madam President, we are all indebted to the special teachers we encountered during our formal education: those who made a subject come alive for us—perhaps for the very first time—and sparked a lifelong interest in a subject or in a field of study. Today, I want to recognize a Kentucky teacher who is doing just that: bringing history and civics education to life for students at Franklin-Simpson Middle School in Franklin, KY.

How many students are truly interested in history and civics in the seventh or eighth grade? But motivating his students to move beyond memorizing facts and dates is exactly what Justin Mitchell is known for. Ask his colleagues—or visit his social media sites—and you will find that he is wildly creative in his mission to make social studies education interesting, challenging, and relevant.

Justin Mitchell earned degrees in social studies and history at Western Kentucky University—in my hometown of Bowling Green—and is now a doctoral candidate there. He is a McConnell scholar who regularly participates in the McConnell Center's Civics Education Program, and he deploys his leadership skills outside of the classroom by mentoring students at his church.

While his fellow teachers, students, and their families have known for years that Justin is an exceptional teacher, this year, he was recognized by the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History as Kentucky's History Teacher of the Year. I am pleased to congratulate Justin on this accomplishment, to thank him for the impact that he is making on his students, and to create this permanent tribute to him in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD of the U.S. Senate.●

REMEMBERING WILLIAM “BUD” LACOUNTE

● Mr. TESTER. Madam President, I rise today to honor the life of William “Bud” LaCounte, a distinguished Montanan and decorated veteran of World War II.

While Bud is no longer with us, his legacy lives on. On behalf of myself, my fellow Montanans, and all Americans, I would like extend our deepest gratitude for his service to this Nation.

Bud's story is one of incredible courage and sacrifice, having survived both American Indian Boarding School and D-day. Born in Bainville, MT, where he now rests, he was a proud member of the Turtle Mountain Tribe of Chippewa Indians. At the age of just 6, he endured the unimaginable when was

taken away from his parents and sent to Fort Totten Indian School.

But his commitment to answering the call of duty never faded. And on the eve of the Second World War, Bud enlisted in the U.S. Army. Not long after he joined, Bud deployed to France and fought bravely in the battle of Omaha Beach in Normandy on June 6, 1944.

After the war, he returned to Montana and settled into his life in Billings as a loving husband, dedicated father and grandfather, rancher, dancer, and storyteller. While he has since passed, his memory and spirit lives on in each of us—in his stories, in his children and grandchildren, and in his enduring service and sacrifice to this Nation.

I now have the profound honor of presenting Bud's family with the French Legion of Honor Medal for his bravery in the line of duty. This medal serves as a small token of our country's appreciation for Bud's incredible service and outstanding character.

Let us pay a final salute to Bud, who represents the very best of this great country.●

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:23 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Alli, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 2265. An act to amend the Investment Company Act of 1940 to postpone the date of payment or satisfaction upon redemption of certain securities in the case of the financial exploitation of specified adults, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2989. An act to amend securities and banking laws to make the information reported to financial regulatory agencies electronically searchable, to further enable the development of RegTech and Artificial Intelligence applications, to put the United States on a path towards building a comprehensive Standard Business Reporting program to ultimately harmonize and reduce the private sector's regulatory compliance burden, while enhancing transparency and accountability, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4111. An act to require the Secretary of the Treasury to direct the United States Executive Director at the International Monetary Fund to advocate that the Fund provide technical assistance to Fund members seeking to enhance their capacity to evaluate the legal and financial terms of sovereign debt contracts, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5142. An act to award posthumously a Congressional Gold Medal, in commemoration of the servicemembers who perished in Afghanistan on August 26, 2021, during the evacuation of citizens of the United States and Afghan allies at Hamid Karzai International Airport, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 2265. An act to amend the Investment Company Act of 1940 to postpone the date of payment or satisfaction upon redemption of certain securities in the case of the financial